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REPORT

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General

1. Tbilisi, capital of the Georgian SSR and situated on the Kura River had a population of one million inhabitants in 1939, when the last census was taken. During and after World War II the population had increased, and in 1952 according to unofficial information, it had reached 1.2 million inhabitants. Many new constructions and settlements were built after World War II, and Tbilisi had grown considerably. In 1952 Tbilisi occupied an area of approximately 40 sq. km. The administrative part of the city was located on the west bank of the Kura; industrial enterprises were mostly on the east bank, and especially in the suburbs, Didube (northern part of Tbilisi) and in Navtlug (eastern part of Tbilisi).
2. Tbilisi was connected by a double-track RR line to the north with Moscow (via Sukhumi) and Batumi; to the east with the region of Kakhetia (Georgian SSR); to the southeast with Baku; to the south via Leninakan with the Turkish border and via Yerevan with the Iranian border. Several highways (running approximately the same directions as the railroad) connected Tbilisi with the same localities as the RR lines and with many others. The highways were mostly paved with black tar and in some places with cobblestone. There were no concrete roads or super-highways in the Georgian SSR.
3. Tbilisi was the most important administrative, industrial, economic, and trading center of the Georgian SSR. Although its importance had decreased slightly after 1935 (when Tbilisi ceased to be the capital of the Transcaucasian Federation (Zakavkazskaya Federatsiya), which was abolished concomitant with the creation of the three independent SSR's of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan) it still was the second largest industrial and economic center of the Caucasus, Baku being the first.

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25X1Health Statistics

the birth rate exceeded the death rate; the infant mortality rate was rather low, especially compared with the war years. The leading causes of mortality among adults in the Tbilisi area were cancer and heart ailments. Several short epidemics of scarlet fever and diphtheria among children happened during the postwar period, but with very few deaths. In prewar times epidemic dysentery was quite widespread in Tbilisi. During World War II typhus and typhoid, just as in the other regions of the USSR, caused many deaths in Tbilisi.

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5. Tbilisi had a public water system deriving water from the Natakhtari mountain stream which was a tributary of the Aragvi River, north of Tbilisi. Water was pumped from the stream, filtered, and chlorinated; it ran to Tbilisi by force of gravity. However, since the pressure was not sufficient to supply all parts of Tbilisi, several water towers were built to increase the pressure. Because of the postwar development of Tbilisi, the existing water supply became insufficient and the water authorities started construction of an additional water system deriving water from a mountain stream close to Bulachauri, a village east of Tbilisi. This public water system was supposed to be completed in 1952 and to supplement the Natakhtari water system. The old pre-Revolutionary public water system which derived water from the Kura River near the village of Kvemo-Avchala, north of Tbilisi, was abandoned in about 1931 or 1932.
6. The public water system supplied water not only to the central part of the city but also to its outskirts. even on the city's outskirts water went to every apartment. all industrial enterprises in Tbilisi used water from the city's public water system and did not have their own water supply system.
7. There was a laboratory of the City Health Office in Tbilisi charged with control, tests, and analysis of drinking water. Tbilisi water was very hard. No boiling of Tbilisi water was necessary; everybody drank water from the tap.
8. Various types of mineral water: Borzhomi, Sairme, Yessentuki, Narzan, and others were sold in kiosks in Tbilisi. Borzhomi water was very popular and was drunk because of its fine taste or for dietary reasons. In addition to mineral water, kiosks sold carbonated water which normally was drunk in a mixture with a fruit syrup, making a very tasty and refreshing beverage; none of this, however, could replace wine, which was a national Georgian beverage drunk by practically everybody.

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Meat

9. The Tbilisi slaughterhouse was located in the suburb of Navtlugi. It was built in the late twenties and reconstructed in a modern way after World War II. Cattle for slaughtering were received from the kolkhoz meat centers (ZagotMyaso) and slaughtered in the slaughterhouse; the meat was inspected by one of several veterinarians on duty at the slaughterhouse. Every piece of meat prepared in the slaughterhouse received a blue stamp placed by the veterinary who inspected it.

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From the slaughterhouse meat was sent to the state-owned butcher shops where it was sold to the consumers. This, however, was only one channel of meat supply, which was not very popular with the residents of Tbilisi. [] the Tbilisi population preferred to buy meat on the market from the kolkhozniki. In order to slaughter an animal, kolkhozniki had to obtain the authorization of the kolkhoz president and deliver the hide to the Hide Collection Center (ZagotKozhSyr'e). When kolkhozniki slaughtered the animal for their own family consumption, they could do it without any difficulty and no veterinary inspection of meat was required. However, if they wanted to take meat to the market or sell it to neighbors, they had to submit the meat for veterinary inspection. At every public market in Tbilisi there was a place called a Sanitary Control Point (Sanitarnyy Nadzor Rynka). Here kolkhozniki had to bring the meat for inspection and have it stamped. This done, kolkhozniki were free to sell meat on the market either directly to the consumer or to a butcher. Because of the time element involved and the inexperience of the kolkhozniki with the animal's anatomy, the second way of selling was more common. The sale of meat without the veterinarian stamp normally resulted in the confiscation of the meat either by the organs of the special militia (OBKhS) or by the City Health Office; the penalty for such illegal activity was a fine or arrest of the perpetrator.

10. Fish for Tbilisi came either from Azerbaijan or from Russia in refrigerator cars. The state agency called Transport Sanitary Control was responsible for sanitary conditions of transported fish and other food articles, and together with the goods, it had to supply certificates of their condition to the wholesalers. Control of fish and other perishable food articles at the wholesalers and retailers in Tbilisi was exercised by the City Health Office. [] 25X1
[] fish was found spoiled and was immediately sprinkled with kerosene by them.

Dairy Products

11. Dairy products brought to the market by kolkhozniki were inspected by the authorities of the market's Sanitary Control. [] 25X1
[] there was a check on milk or butter to determine fat content; it was sufficient that the dairy products were fit for human consumption. The dairy products delivered by kolkhozniki to the butter and cheese collection point (ZagotSyrMaslo), however, were obligatorily inspected as to fat content. Milk was delivered to the market place in large metal containers of 20 lit., and the consumers usually brought along bottles which were filled from the containers. All cows, regardless of whether they were owned by sovkhozy, kolkhozy, or individuals were subject to two annual inspections for brucellosis. 25X1
12. There were several large market places in Tbilisi called rayon markets; they were: Stalin, Pushkin, Ordzhonikidze, 26 Komissarov, Kirova, Saburtalo, and Molokanskiy. The largest one was that of Stalin located close to the railroad station.

Eating and Drinking Establishments

13. There were several first-class restaurants in Tbilisi. The best one was called the "Tbilisi", where a la carte food, wines, and other beverages could be obtained. The prices, however, were rather high; and the people preferred to eat in one of the eating places (stolovaya) of which there were quite a number in Tbilisi and where meals and beverages could be obtained at least twice as cheaply as in first-class restaurants. The City Public Health Office published sanitary regulations for these places, and non-conformance with these regulations usually resulted in fines and arrests of employees. [] the sanitary control of public eating places 25X1
was quite rigid.

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14. The daily diet of a skilled worker in Tbilisi with a monthly family income of 1,500 to 2,000 rubles (husband, wife, and two children) was:

- a. Breakfast: tea, sugar, bread, cheese or fried eggs.
- b. Lunch: sandwiches with cheese taken from home, or bread and a piece of sausage. A large number of workers went to the factory mess for lunch or to some stolovaya to have a simple meal consisting of a hamburger with mashed potatoes or a bowl of borsch with bread.
- c. Dinner: this was the main daily meal taken at home after daily work. In Georgian homes it consisted of some national meal usually with beans or some other vegetables, potatoes, etc. Two or three times weekly this meal contained a piece of meat. Russian workers had either cabbage soup or borsch with bread. Very often this main meal included some cheap wine.

In general, [redacted] the diet of the worker in the Georgian SSR was better than in many other republics of the USSR. The main reason for this [redacted] was the national ingenuity of the Georgians, who were very capable in making some additional money on the side. 25X1

Disposal System

15. Tbilisi had an operating sewerage system for the entire city.

[redacted] all of the houses were connected with the disposal system. Even those latrines located in the courtyards which were not provided with water-flushing facilities, had sewage disposal pipes; flushing was done in a primitive way, from buckets filled with water. The sewage disposal system flowed directly to the Kura River without any prior treatment of the waste; [redacted] On the city's outskirts waste was used as fertilizer on the house-plot vegetable gardens. 25X1

16. Tbilisi had a regular garbage collection system which was the responsibility of the City Health System. Garbage from homes was collected into large wooden boxes located normally in the courtyard. One such box served several apartments. The garbage collection service was not well organized and quite often, when there was no room in the box, garbage was disposed of somewhere around the box. City garbage collection had trucks but no special device for collection was used. Everything was done in a primitive way by menial labor.

17. Burial was the normal way of disposing of the dead in Tbilisi. Cremation facilities were not available.

Pest Control

18. Tbilisi had a great many rats. From time to time the city health authorities organized a rat-extermination campaign which [redacted] did not bring about much improvement. [redacted] 25X1

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